

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Dear Parents & Guardians:

We are pleased to announce that as of February 1, 2012, we will be opening the Detailed Grading Section of our Power School Parent Portal, for Middle School and High School students.

This section of PowerSchool is a tool to increase communication between parents and teachers. We are excited at the potential of this new application, but realize that with this comes a shift in the way we work and communicate. We believe that along with teachers, it is also important for parents to become educated in the process of grades and assessment. Before PowerSchool, parents received grade information only upon request or at scheduled times. With the PowerSchool Parent Portal, it will now be possible for parents to check grade information at any point in the year. With that in mind, parents need to know and understand the following:

- Grades can change dramatically in the first few weeks of each marking period. In the beginning of each term, you may see large shifts in your child's grade average. When there are only one or two assignments in the grade book, a low or high score can make a dramatic change in the overall grade average. The grade book instantly recalculates the overall grade as every assignment is entered.
- Teacher email links are available in PowerSchool in the Parent Portal section and on our district website. You may communicate with the teacher through email or by phone.
- We always welcome the opportunity to discuss your son or daughter's progress; however, the strategies listed below may be helpful as a first course of action.
 1. Talk with your child first to discuss the circumstances surrounding their progress.
 2. Review the teacher's grading policy.
 3. Check to see if there is an assignment description. In the Class Score Detail screen, if the assignment is listed in blue it will have more information about the assignment. This may help you in understanding what was involved or expected for a particular assignment.
 4. Check the date of the assignment. An assignment handed in late may receive deductions from its score. Remember – early in the marking period, overall grades can fluctuate dramatically because of the number of assignments in the grade book.
 5. See if there are any missing or late assignments that may be affecting your child's overall grade average.
 6. If you need additional assistance, please contact your child's teacher for clarification about grades.

We embrace the opportunity to expand our communication with the parents and students of the Middletown Township Public Schools. It is our intention that this tool will assist our students' academic success. Please do not hesitate to contact your building principal with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

William O. George, III, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools